

26th February 2010

IAEM welcomes NCHD changeover date alteration

For many years the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine has campaigned for a change in the date on which non-Consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs) take up their 6 or 12 month jobs. Historically this takes place on 1st January and 1st July of any given year and as the former is invariably a Public Holiday and the latter may well fall on a weekend, this produces significant difficulties for both individual doctors and clinical services, particularly Emergency Departments (EDs). Hospital Personnel Departments and the Registration section of the Medical Council are closed over the New Year and at weekends, adding to difficulties.

The new arrangements will take effect from later this year and will see the changeover take place on the second Monday of January and second Monday of July of the year.

The dates chosen represent a very significant improvement in the previous arrangements which from the perspective of EDs were particularly difficult. The first working day for NCHDs in their new posts will now be on a day when EDs can provide them with maximal support and orientation and from the perspective of EDs and the patients they serve, the change is very welcome.

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